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What Drives Me

What drives me? The best way to describe what drives me is to give you some background of my family dynamics, particularly my little brother Noah. Noah was born with a lack of white brain matter. This affects his speech and motor development. My earliest memories are from attending his numerous doctor, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy appointments. We went to at least one appointment every week, often multiple appointments weekly. I would play doctor and provide therapy to my dolls just like I had seen during these appointments, right down to carrying a doctor's prescription pad. What drives me is a passion to help people improve the quality of their life through increasing movement, reducing pain, and restoring function to their muscles. I watched people help my brother do this his whole life.

When my brother was still learning to walk at six years old, I remember his occupational therapist showing me how to help Noah hold onto a railing to steady his body so he could take steps forward. She worked with our family to help encourage him to gain muscle and stabilize the bones in his ankles, knees, and hips to help him gain confidence in walking independently. She also supported my brother in being able to feed himself by taking a spoon that was offered to him and bringing it up to his mouth. The occupational and physical therapists taught us to celebrate each of Noah's little accomplishments.

I am driven to help improve other special needs children to be able to achieve goals that most of us take for granted. For example, rolling over, sitting up, crawling, walking, eating, using their hands, are all activities that may require a child months, or even years of hard work to achieve. I want to help families achieve these milestones. I am very excited to attend George Fox University this fall and major in kinesiology. After graduating with my undergrad degree, I then plan to attend a graduate school in either physical or occupational therapy where I can really gain the skills needed to help children and their families.

My purpose and drive are to help people. I want to make a difference in family's lives as they learn to help their loved ones adapt to health issues. After I graduate, I aspire to work at either Shriners Hospital or somewhere like the Gerry Frank Center for Children's Care. These are two locations where highly knowledgeable therapists really worked hard to increase my brother's

independence. I know with my experiences growing up with my brother Noah, as well as my future endeavors in college, both undergrad and graduate school, I will have enough drive to reach my goals where I can help young children develop their own skills to gain independence in their life.